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ELEMENTS,
NAUTICAL
AND
COMMERCIAL.





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COMMERCIAL.

Μεγα βιβλίον, μεγα κακον.

“This kind of work *is not in our*
“way.”

Crit. Review, Feb. 1795.

SECOND EDITION.

LONDON:

Printed for J. SEWELL, Cornhill,
March 1797.

PRICE ONE SHILLING.

[*Entered at Stationers Hall.*]

Imprimatur.

NEPTUNE.



ADVERTISEMENT.

IT may reasonably be supposed, that a work so elaborate and expensive, with such types, vignette, paper, and binding, could never have been perfected, in

the manner it now appears before a judicious and fastidious public, without the support of the first personages in this kingdom, of the two Universities, the Royal Society, Society of Artists, College of Physicians, Agricultural Society, Naval-Architectural Society,

(7)

King's and Compa-
ny's Surveyors, the
whole body of Char-
tered Shipwrights,
Mast-makers, Sail-
makers, Rope-makers,
Ship Chandlers, Foun-
ders, Anchor-smiths,
Carvers, &c. &c. &c.

In a word, the author cannot express his astonishment at the avidity with which the subject of this folio has been sought after, patronized, and promulgated by every description of people of power and wealth, as well in the departmental as commercial lines.

The unbounded testimony, in particular, *of its importance from the Naval-Architectural Society is far beyond the reach of his pen*—but as

“ Erasme, dans
 “ ses dernières an-
 “ nées, payait son
 “ diner avec *un vo-*

“ *lume!* fo the Au-
thor by a *Folio!*”

Vide, *Rapport sur
les encouragemens à
accorder aux arts et
aux artistes; fait par
Gregoire, au nom du
comité d'instruction
publique en Octobre,
1794.*

PRE.

PREFACE.

CONSULTING . my
bookseller about my
desire to appear in
print, he told me it
was indeed a bold un-
dertaking, yet a very
common disorder at

present, which he called by a hard name, a *caco*—*something*; and endeavoured, with much seeming kindness and plausibility, to dissuade me from my purpose, by an old quotation: “*Oh that mine enemy would write a book!*” but

as I was *instantly* convinced in my own mind this proceeded entirely from envy, and his jealousy of my approaching reputation in a branch of science, in the improvement of which he could not bear the least shadow of *rivalship*, I persisted; and he then,

pretending kindly to
suppose my *zeal for*
the public-good might
have' outweighed *my*
discretion, (whereas I
was *equally convinced*
he only gave way be-
cause he thought he
might as well have
the profits of my book
as another) began to
compliment me on

that score, and then gravely observed, that any thing that was to come before *great men*, ought to have *a bit of Greek for a motto*, and so he rummaged out *the following scrap*, as best suited, he said, to the nature and extent of my design:

Μεγά βιβλίον, μέγα κακόν;

and very obligingly told me, that the English of it was, “ *a great book is a great evil.*”

But as my views are altogether along-shore, and amongst shipping-people, I thought, as the Greek

was for great men, he meant it *for professors only*; and that of course something should be added on my part, for plain, practical, operative men, of common understanding: he said then, *that must be in Latin*; but that he would, at the same time, give

the translation; and that the following motto *was what was commonly used on these occasions :*

—Si quid novisti rectius istis,
Candidus imperti; si non, his
utere mecum.

Viz. Messmates, if you have a mind to profit by my honest labours, have at you: if not, you may go to — your own way.

———— Si quid novisti rectius istis,
Candidus imperti; si non, his utere mecum.

————

NO sooner had my
bookfeller given way
to my resolution to
publish, and had fur-
nished the mottos, and

advised me to go to work immediately, than I began to perceive (now that all opposition to my will was removed) that he was certainly in the right, and very friendly too, in his caution of the difficulty and danger I was plunging into ; for I protest

I know not where to begin! *and on Naval Architecture too of all subjects for a country-man to attempt!* There is one satisfaction, however, left me with an honest mind, that, let me write what I may on the subject, I shall never be found guilty of piracy (Sew-

ell calls it plagiarism); for ever since I conceived and built the Acorn yacht, I have been at much expence of books and time, to see what has been said in *an elementary way*; but, during a long *and wearisome cruize*, have not been able to make

a *single seizure*; for the *unlearned* say too much, and the *learned* nothing at all! so that as my friend Sewell says here again, “*Ex nihilo nihil fit*;” that is, out of nothing you can have nothing*: and yet I

* Sir William Petty's points and outlines excepted.

find every body continually talking and writing about the imperfections of this most useful art, whilst my own humble opinion is, that an ounce of practical experiment *outweighs a folio of science*; that your experimental is the only useful phi-

lofophy in the nautical way; and that no more can be faid, than that

THE

“ THE BEST
BARK IS THAT
WHICH CARRIES
THE MOST CAR-
GO WITH SAFE-
TY IN THE
LEAST TIME.”

Q. E. D.

Herein I rest the
merits of my con-
struction ; and here, in
pure respect to my
friend's Greek motto,
I end my book, con-
vinced of the truth in
his translation, and
that very little indeed
need be said about
any useful thing.

FINIS.

SUPPLEMENT.

AN explanation of her, however, *in the detail* is ever ready and open to respectable inquiry, at Mr. Sewell's in Cornhill, to whom I am oblig-

ed (amongst other civilities) for the following particular compliment, “ That
 “ I had introduced a
 “ new and happy
 “ mode of writing,
 “ which is, *the mak-*
 “ *ing a book shorter*
 “ *than its preface ;*
 for from a bookseller
 of his eminent repu-

tation I must say myself, that I think it a very handsome compliment indeed, in the face of so many millions of volumes with which the trade is furrounded, and the *great knack of preface-writing!*





